

FOND DU LAC COUNTY

HEALTH DEPT

DIRECTIONS FOR COLLECTION OF WATER SAMPLES FOR TESTING BY THE FOND DU LAC COUNTY LABORATORY
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WATER TESTING FORM: *Complete form accurately.

INFORMATION: *Cost - \$18.00 fee for each test
(Please read all items) (Check payable to: Fond du Lac County Treasurer)

*Lab hours: Samples accepted Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday 8:00am to 4:00pm

*Collect sample just prior to delivery to lab

*Refrigerate sample if not delivered immediately

*Test results may not be valid if sample is received at lab more than 24 hours after
collection

CONTACT:

G. Smedema, R.S., Laboratory Director
160 South Macy Street
Fond du Lac WI 54935
(920) 929-3085

Improper or careless collection of the sample may cause it to be contaminated, thus giving an “Unsafe” report. Please follow the instructions carefully.

Sampling Instructions

1. Sample as close to the well as possible-there may be a sample tap in the basement near the pressure tank.
2. Avoid plastic, swing and gooseneck faucets. Remove any faucet attachments; aerator, gasket, screen or hose. It is not necessary to flame/torch the tap before sampling.
3. Open the valve and allow the water to run at full flow for 3-5 minutes.
4. Reduce to medium flow and allow to run for another minute. Do not change the flow rate. Do not wash or wipe the tap before collecting the sample. If the well has been chlorinated recently be sure to pump away all traces of chlorine before sampling.
5. Remove seal from sample bottle.
6. Open the sterile, sealed sample bottle carefully-do not rinse the bottle-do not touch the inside of the bottle or cap.
7. Fill the bottle to at least the marked fill line-do not underfill.
8. Replace cap and secure tightly.
9. Complete information form.
10. Promptly deliver sample bottle and completed form to Health Dept. Lab at 160 South Macy Street, Fond du Lac. Keep bottle cool.
11. Samples will be accepted only on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday between 8:00 am and 3:30 p.m. Samples over 24 hours will not be accepted.

What do test results mean?

A bacteriological test shows that coliform bacteria were (or were not) in the water sample delivered to the lab. A sample that is reported “safe bacteriological”, means that coliform were not found in the sample. If the sample was taken according to directions, you can be reasonably sure that the water is suitable for drinking and general domestic use. When a sample is reported “unsafe bacteriologically,” it means that coliform bacteria were found. The chances are that the well has been affected by surface water or near-surface waters. To be on the safe side, consider the water supply to be a health risk and until you have found out where the problems originates, you should not consume the water unless it is boiled first.

The first thing to do with an “unsafe” result is to re-sample. If the second sample results show presence of coliform bacteria, you need to immediately investigate sources of contamination and disinfect your water system. Unless you feel confident about doing this yourself, the well should be disinfected by a qualified sanitarian, or ground water contractor.

BEFORE investing in water treatment equipment, it is recommended that all attempts be made to solve the problem by sanitizing the well, ensuring that the well construction is in good order and that nearby potential contamination sources are removed.